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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5118
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RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES PRIORITY
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY 0610
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RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 0124
RUEHNY/AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY 5578
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SUBJECT: DANES STRONGLY CONDEMN AUNG SAN SUU KYI'S
CONVICTION

REF: SECSTATE 83598

Classified By: Ambassador Laurie S. Fulton, reasons 1.4 (B) and (D)

11. (U) Denmark's Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a press release August 11 strongly condemning the conviction of Aung San Suu Kyi, calling her recent trial "a farce" and a clear attempt to keep her away from 2010 elections. The press release quoted Danish Foreign Minister Per Stig Moeller as saying,

"The Danish Government condemns the Burmese military regime's decision to sentence the leader of the largest opposition party, Nobel Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi, to prison and continued house arrest for an act that she did not commit.

With this sentence it is clear that Aung San Suu Kyi is being prevented from playing a role in the leadup to planned elections in 2010. Without the participation of Aung San Suu Kyi and other opposition politicians there can be no discussion of an acceptable electoral process. This arbitrary judgement against Aung San Suu Kyi is therefore a very serious step backwards for the possibility of democracy and national reconciliation in Burma. Denmark and the EU are strongly engaged in promoting democratic development in Burma.

Denmark will work to see that the EU answers by toughening sanctions against the generals and their economic interests. We must send a clear signal to the regime that Denmark and the EU are serious in their demand for democracy and national reconciliation in Burma. At the same time we will continue to strengthen cooperation and engagement with civil society in Burma and continue a close dialogue with its Asian neighbors to promote democracy, economic progress and stability in Burma and in the broader region."

12. (C) Ambassador Fulton also raised Burma in an August 12 meeting with Danish National Security Advisor Thomas Ahrenkiel, thanking him for the strong Danish response. Ahrenkiel expressed frustration that EU engagement with Burma was not producing the results that Denmark had hoped for. He told the Ambassador that Denmark, in his words a "hardliner" within the EU on Burma, would continue to press in Brussels for additional sanctions against the Burmese regime.
FULTON